

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-01 CPR-01 SSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8878

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

GESKN/AMEMBASSY KINGSTON 1218

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0532

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, TD, CU, SEDU

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS AND FIRST MEETING
WITH PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS

1. AT 1000 FEB 17 I PRESENTED MY CREDENTIAL TO GOVERNOR

GENERAL SIR ELLIS CLARKE FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY MEETINGS WITH
CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AND MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
PERMANENT SECRETARY SEIGNORET.

2. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MY PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS
AND DISCUSSION WITH SIR ELLIS, PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS
RECEIVED ME FOR A VERY CORDIAL ONE- HOUR MEETING. WHILE
MEETING WAS INTRODUCTORY AND LARGELY GENERAL IN NATURE,
THE PRIME MINISTER MADE SEVERAL COMMENTS WHICH CONFIRMED
OTHER REPORTING THAT HE IS VERY DISILLUSIONED WITH CUBA.
HE NOTED THAT HAVANA HAD BEEN UNCOOPERATIVE EVEN WITH
PLANS FOR THE PROPOSED CARIBBEAN MEETING OF UNIVERSITIES
WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN CONVENED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
THE ECLA CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPEATION
COMMITTEE (CDCC) IN RESPONSE TO WILLIAMS' EARLIER
INITIATIVE.

3.COMMENT: WILLIAMS' DECISION TO GRANT ME AN
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IMMEDIATE APPOINTMENT AFTER MY PRESENTATION OF

CREDENTIALS, AND THE UNUSUALLY LONG TIME HE SPENT IN OUR FIRST CONVERSATION, BOTH ARE FELICITOUS SIGNS THAT HE CURRENTLY PLACES SOME REAL VALUE ON MAINTAINING THE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS, I UNDERSTAND THAT ONE FOREIGN AMBASSADOR WAS HERE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE FINALLY BEING ABLE TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF TO THE PRIME MINISTER AT A SOCIAL EVENT LAST YEAR. THE APPOINTMENT FOR PRESENTATION OF MY CREDENTIALS ONLY FOUR DAYS AFTER MY ARRIVAL IN COUNTRY WAS ALSO A PARTICULARLY COURTEOUS GESTURE ON THE PART OF THE GOVT DESIGNED TO ENABLE ME TO "EMERGE" FOR THE PRE-LENTEN CARNIVAL THIS WEEKEND AND EARLY NEXT WEEK.
FAY

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